



Door Team Ensures Mission Readiness

By MC2 (AW) M. JEREMIE YODER
Penny Press staff

Doors and hatches...hatches and scuttles...these shipboard fittings have been the reality of Hull Technician First Class (SW) Chance Barker and his team of Sailors who have spent the last four months aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), improving the ship's operational readiness through hard work, skill, and determination.

Prior to entering the Dry-Dock Planned Incremental Availability (DPIA) period in late August, work centers from around the ship submitted a substantial list of water-tight doors and other damage control fittings that were in various conditions of disrepair and were in need of the skill and expertise of a subject matter expert.

Enter the Door Team.

Barker and his expertly trained crew of 15 Sailors from Air, Combat Systems, Engineering, and Weapons Departments had daily jobs dictated to them through Automated Work Requests (AWR). Barker said the job requirements are reviewed through

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Engineman Fireman Brandon Wright (Front) makes preliminary adjustments to a water-tight door while fellow team member Aviation Boat-swains Mate 3rd Class Bart Kooyman fills out the necessary paperwork to initiate the job. Both are members of Lincoln's door team during the 2006 Dry Dock Planned Incremental Availability period. U.S Navy photo by MC2(AW) M. Jeremie Yoder.



Lincoln Sailor Earns College Credit By Test

By MC2 (SW) MICHAEL HART
Penny Press staff

Earning college credits can be hard. Distinct challenges range from raising money to pay for the courses and books to trying to balance a part-time job, social life and study time.

Although these challenges arise to face almost every college student at least once,

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) Sailors have a distinct advantage over their civilian counterparts. The military, the Navy in particular, gives college credits to servicemembers for their rank, rate and time served.

In addition, servicemembers have other venues to earn college credits through numerous programs.

One Sailor, Personnel Specialist 1st

Class (SW) John Smith, from Abe's Education Services Office, earned an additional 27 college credits without stepping foot on a university campus, buying any books or sitting through any lectures.

"CLEP tests save time and money," Smith said. "People need to take advantage of it. The tests are free and you get college credit for your time."

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Although the tests are free and give Sailors a chance to earn college credits, Smith added that it is up to the various schools if the credits are acceptable or not.

By taking advantage of programs like CLEP, Smith has put himself in a better position for any degree that he decides to get. Even though he used these tools to his benefit, he had some reservations about the program at first.

"I had a misconception that if I failed a test that I wouldn't have been able to take any other CLEP tests and would owe money," Smith said. "That's not the case. If you don't pass a test in any particular subject, then you have to wait six months before taking that test again. However, you can take tests in

any other area."

According to Smith, Sailors interested in CLEP can take the free 90-minute tests in three locations.

"The tests are given at the Navy College on Naval Station Everett, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island and Naval Base Kitsap," he said. "The tests in Everett and Whidbey Island are computerized and don't require any appointments."

Smith added that the computerized version of the test lets Sailors know as soon as they finish if they passed or failed.

Anyone interested in CLEP or any other academic programs to earn college credits while on active duty, should visit Abe's ESO office onboard or call J-dial 7025.

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a ship check to clarify any outstanding discrepancies with the responsible division, and the job is executed.

"An average job takes three to four hours to complete," said Barker, which he said has translated into an average daily job completion rate of three to five jobs—a number made possible by multiple work teams.

According to Barker's estimates, his team has completed more than 250 jobs during the ship's time in Bremerton, a fact that he said he is very proud of considering the involvement level that some of the jobs have required of his team.

While Barker was quick to acknowledge

that many of the jobs required little more than basic damage control maintenance, many other jobs required more complicated work that necessitated grinding and welding, work such as replacing door wedges and realigning a door altogether.

Barker said the door team will continue to work on their assigned fittings throughout the ship right up to the termination of the ship's force work package, which is scheduled to be completed by February 4.

Barker, who knows a bit about being a Leading Petty Officer (LPO) for a Temporary Assigned Duty (TAD) after spending a year in Safety, said he has been

impressed by the skill and determination of his Sailors throughout their time in the shipyard.

"My Sailors have really blown me away," he said. "It has been both good and fun."

Barker also acknowledged the difficulty in learning to lead Sailors from a wide array of personal and professional backgrounds and formulate their efforts into a cohesive and useful entity.

"I have been blessed to lead these men and women. They have just been great," Barker said.

"They have made me a success," said Barker.



**For more information
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Last Words



Shipmates

The strength of a warship lies in the hearts and hands of its crew.



Photo By MC3 Brett Morton

MMFA Nicholas Dohm from the Valve Team receives the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) worker of the week award from Capt. C.A. McCawley.

Editor's Top 10

Outrageous State Laws

10. Alaska - In Fairbanks, it is illegal to feed alcoholic beverages to a moose.

9. Florida - Women can be fined for falling asleep under a hair dryer.

8. New Hampshire - It is illegal to sell the clothes one is wearing to pay off a gambling debt.

7. Idaho - Boxes of candy given as romantic gifts must weigh more than 50 lbs.

6. South Carolina - Every citizen must carry his gun to church.

5. Wisconsin - It is illegal to kiss on a train.

4. Indiana - Monkeys are forbidden to smoke cigarettes in South Bend.

3. California - It is illegal to eat oranges in a bathtub.

2. Oklahoma - People who make ugly faces at dogs may be fined and/or jailed.

1. Illinois - No one may speak English, the official recognized language is "American."



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